

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

The swallows are back (first seen on 2nd April) and the Babcary Meadows are full of cowslips and early purple orchids. The owls are busy populating their new nesting boxes and a cuckoo was heard in the woods at Lovington on the 19th.

This month we have news of the new cricket season from Richard Canterbury.

Deadline for the June edition; 25th May

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

Babcary Village Calendar 2027



It has been suggested that we have a village calendar again next year, as we did back in 2010-2014. Many online companies offer to print these and we anticipate they will cost about £15 each and be available in time for Christmas. But we need the best photos of Babcary village life, the local countryside, wildlife, farming (current or old black and white photos) to be sent in, and the best ones will be selected for the calendar in the autumn by a panel of experts! If you have any good photos of Babcary, Foddington or Steart please email them, with the suggested month, to Jazz Tucker at babcaryparishclerk@icloud.com. Winter has already passed so any autumn or winter scenes can be sent in straight away – though we don't want floods on *every* page.....

Cricket Club Report



Babcary Cricket Club is delighted to say that the club continues to go from strength to strength as we head into another exciting season. This will be our third season since reviving the club, and we're pleased to be a founding member of the newly created ESPL (East Somerset Premier League). This local league will see us play local villages for the right to be crowned ESPL Champion. In total, we have 10 great fixtures to look forward to: some league matches in T20, and some friendly matches in both 20- and 50-over formats.

We will be showcasing the new branded Babcary kit, and with new players joining the team, there is a real sense of enthusiasm around the club. We are excited to see what the season ahead will bring.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone in the village and beyond for your continued support. It really does mean a great deal to the club, and we are very grateful for all the encouragement we receive.

Here are our fixtures for the season:

Fri 8th May Babcary v Queen Camel (home) league T20
Fri 15th May Babcary v Ditcheat (away) league T20
Sun 31st May Babcary v Dorset Wanderers (home) friendly 50 overs
Fri 5th June Babcary v Martock (home) league T20
Sun 14th June Babcary v Kingsdon (away) league T20
Fri 26th June Babcary v Sparkford (away) league T20
Sun 5th July Babcary v Ditcheat (home) Fosse Cup 50 overs
Sun 12th July Babcary v Ditcheat (away) Fosse Cup 50 overs
Tues 28th July Babcary v The Newt (away) friendly T20

We are also planning a fundraising dinner to help generate much-needed revenue for the club. This will be a great opportunity to bring people together while supporting the future of Babcary Cricket Club.

We look forward to welcoming supporters throughout the season and hope to see many of you at the fixtures.

RC

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

A warm welcome to James and Melanie Kirk who have just moved into The Old Rectory with their three young sons Bo, River and Mawgan.

Weather Report

Babcary had 26.8mm of rainfall during March 2026 mostly received during the second week of the month. The majority of days were dry. This was approximately 50% of our long-term average. Babcary had 26.8mm of rainfall during March 2026 mostly received during the second week of the month. The majority of days were dry. This was approximately 50% of our long-term average.

Steve Street

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

2 nd May	Jan and Karen	6 th June	Helen and Teresa
9 th May	Caroline and Tracyanne	13 th June	Lucy and Jenny
16 th May	Gilli and Shirley	20 th June	NO SHOP - FETE
23 rd May	Sally and Vee	27 th June	Rita and Carole
30 th May	Jules and Caroline	4 th July	Judy and Lesley

Helen has kindly purchased a card reader which will be trialled at the Fete and then offered to anyone on the Shop who would like to use it. The float will be increased to £20.

Pop up choir singing session – No workshop this month.

Mobile Library

Visits the bus shelter on 7th May from 12.55 – 1.15pm

THE RED LION BABCARY

Hello everyone,

It has been a privilege to welcome you through our doors now for the past 23 years this month, and now spring is finally in the air, we are loving seeing the brighter days and warmer weather arriving here at the pub. Our gardens are starting to look beautiful again – the perfect spot to relax, catch up with friends, and enjoy a drink or a bite to eat.

With the new season comes our **fresh Spring menu**, packed with delicious dishes to suit the lighter, sunnier days ahead. We can't wait for you to try it!

We're also delighted to announce that **live music is back**, starting on **Friday 24th April at 7:30pm** – the perfect way to kick off the weekend.

Don't forget:

Breakfast is now served every Saturday & Sunday (8:30am – 11:30am)

Takeaways available 7 days a week – enjoy your favourites at home

Keep up with all our latest updates and events on social media

We always love hearing from our community, so if there's anything you'd like to see at the pub in the future, please do get in touch.

Email us at: info@redlionbabcary.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you soon – whether it's for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or just a drink in the garden.

Warm regards,

The Clare, Charlie and all Team at the Red Lion Babcary

***PIZZAS ***

Join us for our freshly made pizzas:

Friday Nights

Saturday Lunch

Saturday Evenings

TAKEAWAY AVAILABLE

Enjoy your favourites at home:

Burgers and Fish & Chips

Available all week

We look forward to welcoming you all very soon

Great food, Great atmosphere, Great fun!

Why not Follow us at:

<https://www.instagram.com/redlionbabcary/>

<https://www.facebook.com/redlionba>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

When I first came to Babcary I reasoned that in order to get something out of living in a village I needed to put something in. So, I volunteered to go on the Shop rota. However, 40 years ago, you were only allowed on the rota if you were a member of either the Community Committee or the Playing Field Committee. I chose the Community Committee and went along to the next meeting which happened to be the AGM. Johnnie Burton, the Chairman at the time, was not impressed that I was the only member of the public who turned up and, with a face that was red with anger, he announced "I am resigning because there is no new blood!" This just goes to show that nothing changes. Fortunately, Mary Levett was ready and waiting to step into the breach. Imagine, a new Chairman who was keen to take on the job! Meanwhile, I was catapulted into becoming Secretary. Nobody warned me that there would be two meetings every month – one for the monthly event and one to edit the Newsletter – or that I would have to write a committee report for every edition. Still, at least I was now allowed on the Shop rota. However, there was another rule – you had to bake something every time it was your turn!

We have it easy these days! We only have three events a year and three meetings to match. We raised £600 at a very hot Fete and £1000 at a brilliant Bazaar. The Harvest Supper ran at a small loss, but it was always intended as something for the village rather than a fund raising event. We have funded the Christmas tree, the biscuits, the children's pantomime tickets and the Newsletter, which still has its place in village life judging by comments received. We have an army of helpers; those who collate, contribute to, or deliver the Newsletter; those who are on the Shop rota or contribute the goodies to sell and those willing to help at an event. It's still hard to get new blood, and even harder to recruit new officers. Helen has been a much valued and efficient Treasurer for many years and Caroline has been Secretary since the pandemic. I have been Chairman on and off for more years than I can remember, so it's high time I resigned!

AGM REPORT

Many thanks to our valiant committee members – Helen, Caroline, Gilli, Teresa, Robin and Jenny – who were all willing to stay on, and especially to Helen and Caroline who are continuing as Treasurer and Secretary. We were very fortunate to gain a new recruit – a warm welcome to Maureen Everard!

The position of Chairman remains vacant. It was decided to split the job into three for the three different events. Helen agreed to lead the Fete which will take place on 20th June.

Nobody was willing to take the lead on the Harvest Supper. Numbers were rather low last time and it requires a great deal of work and organisation, so we may need to take a break for a year. It was suggested that we have a Harvest Festival in the Church followed by refreshments in the Hut.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held on 28th November.

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PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

100 Club

Subs for the new year are now due. £12 per person please. There will be four draws through the year – the final one for last year will be held at the shop shortly. This is a major fund raising activity for the upkeep of the playing field, the Hut and the playground equipment. Please send a BACS transfer with your surname as the reference.

Tennis club

Subs for the coming year are now due. £75 family membership or £40 per adult and £20 for children. If you are a new member please contact Simon Hoar 07904 344453 for access. Please send a BACS transfer with your surname as the reference.

Bank details: Acc name: Babcary Playing Field, sort code: 09 01 55, acc no. 7452 5181.

Rubbish

There will soon be a big new green bin just inside the gate of the playing field for litter and dog waste – this replaces the red dog poo bin and the other litter bins.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Midweek Pilgrims Prayers

Fr Pip now holds short midweek prayers in each of the six churches. A 20 minute or so service with time to reflect, pray for others and ourselves.

Sat 2nd May 9am

Fri 22nd May 9am

Churchyard Clear Up

Many thanks to the dirty dozen who turned up on Saturday 11th April and gave the churchyard a spring clean.

Services

Sunday	26 th April	10.30	S.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	3rd May	10.30	Babcary	communion	
Sunday	10 th May	10.30	Hornblotton	communion	
Sunday	17 th May	<u>10.30</u>	Alford	matins	
Sunday	24 th May	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	31 st May	10.30	Lovington	Communion	

Cleaning

Flowers

Coffee

Sidesmen

May 3rd	Sarah and Sarah	Rita		Rory and Simon
May 10th	Elisabeth&Mary	Jo		
May 17th	Judy and Sally	Teresa		
May 24th	Karen and Vee	Susan		
May 31st	Tom & Bridget	Elisabeth		
June 7th	Nikki & Karen	Lucy		

PARISH COUNCIL

Babcary Parish Council

Draft minutes from Monday 13th April 2026 8.00pm at The Hut

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Steve Street, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Vee Vyner, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Kevin Messenger (County Councillor), Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk) & 2 Members of the public (Lydia Dunne).

Apologies: Mrs Jane Diamond, Mr Philip Sketchley & Mr Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor)

March 2026 Minutes agreed & signed.

1) Matters Arising

- i) Potholes, Spring Gardens, a large pothole has been denoted by white circling but as yet no action has been seen, why mark the holes for no action to be taken? Funds have been increased by government, just not spent in Babcary! Council suspect Keir of substandard repairs when done.
- ii) Defibrillator, location for secondary defib. PS sourcing a second defib. Martin Quartermain and Damien Pick are happy to have the 2nd defibrillator located on the car park pull in in front of their chalets. This is an ideal location as it is located to the top half of the village.
- iii) Parish Clerk .gov email, Jasmine to set up new email address in line with new "Assertion 10" email re change to parishclerk address sent to Parish.helper@domains.go.uk
Clerks computer still requires tweaking to be set up!
- iv) River Cary & Environment Agency Watercourse, no further updates.
- v) Dog Refuse & bin removal invoice £1216.80 (Dec 2024), refuse bin to be refurbished. Cheque drawn up April 2026.
- vi) Accessibility Statement adopted and to be posted on Babcary Website

2) Finance

- i) Capital Reserve Account stands at £14,792.40 Current Account balance £50.
- ii) Dog refuse removal £1216.80, inv 32015833 payable to Somerset Council.
- iii) Air Ambulance donation £50
- iv) SALC £123.26

3) Planning Consultation -

- i) 26/00530/FUL Land at end of Dilkes Lane, Babcary
Lydia Dunne MSc Urban Planning, MRTPI Director Whiteacre Planning attended the meeting.
The Parish Council considered the above referenced planning application for a bungalow in Dilkes Lane and objected on the following grounds:

1. Unwarranted development extending the southern edge of the village into green fields.
 2. Flooding: the site itself may be at risk of flooding but of much more concern is Dilkes Lanes either side of the gateway to this site which floods most of the winter.
 3. Design: the design of the bungalow is of poor quality and out of keeping with the local building vernacular.
 4. Change of use. We have concerns over the future of the fields which form the remainder of the site.
 5. Correction: There is not a weekly bus service, as stated in the plans.
- 4 objections 1 abstained.

4) Correspondence

What if your council had a cyber-attack tomorrow? Gallagher 10/03/26

CAST Henry Hobhouse, Potholes report, Babcary reporting does not seem to have been picked up!? Keep messaging in those potholes

HH to contact Tracey Harris.

Road closure pilot developing in Martock & Yeovilton & District parishes, aimed at flood prevention, complete & sign MoUs, HH.

- ii) South East Policing Special South East Meeting 7th May 2026, full agenda to follow, currently a save the date notification, request any queries to be answered for Babcary, Rory Macdiarmid, on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch, "when was the last routine patrol made of Babcary."
Reduced police man hours just 2 PCSO's & 1 full time officer allocated to our area, hence reduced service.

Neighbourhood Watch signs promised 3 weeks ago still not received.

- iii) The Red Lion, Asset of Community Value Ref : ELP/HJS/ACV96S
Community Right to Bid.

The parish council received notification from Somerset Council that the owners of the Red Lion were seeking to dispose of part of the car park and advising that this did not trigger a community right to bid. Concerns were raised over future car parking arrangements.* *See note below minutes.*

5) AOB

- i) Suggested Babcary Village Calendar, Community Committee to take on board as photo judges!
- ii) HH drew attention to Planning Committee reforms Government removing local Parish Council ability to object to planning developments under 9 dwellings. Submit your views to
- iii) Planning committee reforms: statutory consultation on draft Regulations and Guidance- Ministry of housing, Communities and Local Government – Citizen Space SO0012 Babcary Parish Council – 2025/26 AGAR external auditor instructions received.
- iv) New proposed train link from Glastonbury to Castle Cary, aiming to install lifts either side of track in order to ease disabled access, HH.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 11th of May 2026 in the Hut. This is the AGM with election of chairman and vice chairman and an open forum for anyone to raise any issues or concerns.

Draft minutes appear in the Village News and Views. Once approved at the subsequent months meeting they then will be posted, with any updates/amendments on the BABCARY website under 'Parish Council Minutes' section. www.babcaryparishcouncil.org.uk

***Postscript:** After the Parish Council meeting a notice was received from Somerset Council that the proposed disposal of part of the **Red Lion car park** *does* trigger a right to bid moratorium. A six-week moratorium period has therefore come into effect from 6 April 2026 and ends on 18 May 2026 giving community groups an opportunity to express an interest in buying the car park asset. See noticeboards and Parish Council website etc for details. This will be discussed at the May meeting. If you have any views on the disposal of part of the car park please speak to a parish councillor, email the parish clerk or attend the meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 2 nd May	Midweek prayers	Babcary church 9am
Sunday 3 rd May	Communion service	Babcary church 10.30am
Thursday 7 th May	Mobile Library	Bus shelter 12.55 – 1.15pm
Monday 11 th May	Parish Council AGM Meeting	Hut 8pm
Saturday 22 nd	Midweek prayers	Babcary church 9am
Every Tuesday	Bell Ringing	6pm in the church
Every Saturday	Community Shop	9.30 – 11am in the hut